

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a paperless billing process for enabling expedited and simplified payments of print volume bills by customers of printing systems. A method of performing a billing process for the copies or prints produced by customer  
5 of a printing system is provided where the printing system comprises a memory that stores product usage data indicating a measurement of the actual use of the printing system. The printing system first accesses the memory to retrieve the product usage data. Then, the printing system calculates billing data using the retrieved product usage data. A bill is presented to the customer based on billing data, and the printing  
10 system receives user input from the customer indicating whether the customer authorizes the billing data. If so, a message is sent from the printing system to a billing service, wherein the message includes information indicating the authorized billing data. Thus, the bills are generated locally by the printing system using the printer user interface.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a printing system 100 according to one embodiment of the present invention. The printing system 100 includes a printer 110, a memory 120, a processor 130, and a network interface 140. The printer 110 is connected to the memory 120, the processor 130, and the network interface 140. The memory 120 stores product usage data and billing data. The processor 130 is configured to access the memory 120 to retrieve the product usage data, calculate billing data using the retrieved product usage data, and present a bill to the customer based on the billing data. The network interface 140 is configured to receive user input from the customer indicating whether the customer authorizes the billing data, and to send a message to a billing service if the customer authorizes the billing data. The message includes information indicating the authorized billing data. The bills are generated locally by the printing system 100 using the printer user interface.